



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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New Legislation Provides Balanced Approach to Meeting Wisconsin's Growing Energy Demand

MADISON – Today, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Chairperson Daniel Ebert announced support for new energy efficiency and renewable legislation, saying it is critical to meeting Wisconsin's growing demand for energy.

"The legislation is a major piece of our overall energy framework in Wisconsin. Over the past several years we have made significant investments to upgrade our energy infrastructure in Wisconsin. The provisions in the legislation will help us provide a crucial balance to the energy construction cycle," Chairperson Ebert said.

"The legislation makes sense for our overall energy picture, makes sense for the environment and makes sense for the economy," Chairperson Ebert pointed out. "Through these initiatives we can keep some of our energy dollars here at home in our local economy and we can reduce the impacts of energy generation on our environment at the same time."

Noting that energy demand grows between 2.5% and 3% every year, Chairperson Ebert explained, "We would have to build a new power plant every two years to meet demand through generation alone. However, by reducing demand through energy efficiency and increasing use of renewable energy technologies, we can have a real impact on the need to build new energy infrastructure in the future."

The legislation, drafted from the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewables, requires the PSC to work more closely with state energy efficiency programs housed in the Department of Administration. The proposal also calls for state government to be more energy efficient and use more renewable energy sources. In addition, it calls for utilities to produce at least 10% of the electricity they sell from renewable energy sources by 2015.

Chairperson Ebert commended State Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) and State Representative Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon) for their leadership on the legislation, saying that Wisconsin has a tradition of strong bipartisan support on energy policy which should help move this bill quickly through the legislative process.

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